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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
30 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 0930 A.M. EDT)

Saigon

1. Following his return to Saigon on Sunday, Buddhist Institute President Thich Tam Chau issued a statement calling on Thieu and Ky to hand over power to a civilian government and ordering all Buddhist monks and laymen to "cease immediately burning or mutilating themselves." A press report from Saigon, however, claims that Chau later implied that the immolations would continue if the two generals do not step down.

2. MACV reports that a third Buddhist monk committed suicide by self-immolation shortly before Chau's first statement was issued. The incident took place in front of the Ling Son pagoda in Da Lat. There are further reports from that city that a young Buddhist girl has slashed her wrists and, in accordance with her wishes, has been allowed to bleed to death in order to provide blood for writing protest letters.

3. The Institute statement apparently was the result of consultation among the top members of the Buddhist leadership with the exception of Tri Quang who remained in Hue.

4. A Buddhist-inspired strike of the Saigon food markets took place on the morning of 30 May. The Buddhists have been making efforts to close the food stalls for the past five days but have been unsuccessful until this time. There are no reports of other work stoppages or demonstrations throughout the city.

ARMY review(s) completed.

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Hue

5. The city of Hue is quiet. Two demonstrations involving students and cycle drivers were held during the evening of 30 May (Vietnam time) but no incidents have been reported in connection with either event. Province Chief Khoa has stated his intention to continue as mayor of Hue and to seize the city's radio station, now in student hands. The students have stated that they will hold Radio Hue at "all costs" and that they intend to attack the US Consulate on 31 May.

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